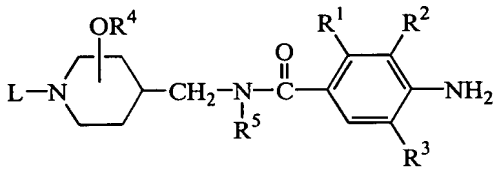
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. **(Currently amended)** A compound of formula (I)



(I),

a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

$R^1$ and $R^2$ taken together form a bivalent radical of formula

-O-$CH_2$-O- (a-1),

-O-$CH_2$-$CH_2$- (a-2),

-O-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-O- (a-3),

-O-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-$CH_2$- (a-4),

-O-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-O- (a-5),

-O-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-$CH_2$- (a-6),

wherein in said bivalent radicals one or two hydrogen atoms may be substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl,

$R^3$ is hydrogen or halo;

$R^4$ is hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyl;

$R^5$ is hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyl;

L is $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, $C_{5-6}$cycloalkanone, or $C_{2-6}$alkenyl,

or L is a radical of formula

-Alk-$R^6$ (b-1),

-Alk-X-$R^7$ (b-2),

-Alk-Y-C(=O)-$R^9$ (b-3), or

-Alk-Y-C(=O)-$NR^{11}R^{12}$ (b-4),

wherein each Alk is $C_{1-12}$alkanediyl; and

$R^6$is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, $C_{1-6}$alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, $C_{5-6}$cycloalkanone, or $Het^1$;

$R^7$is hydrogen, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, or $Het^2$;

X is O, S, $SO_2$ or $NR^8$; said $R^8$ being hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyl;

$R^9$is hydrogen, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy or hydroxy;

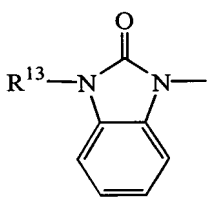
Y is $NR^{10}$ or a direct bond; said $R^{10}$ being hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyl;

$R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ each independently are hydrogen, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, or $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ combined with the nitrogen atom bearing $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ may form a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl ring both being optionally substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl, amino or mono or di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino, or said $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ combined with the nitrogen bearing $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ may form a piperazinyl or 4-morpholinyl radical both being optionally substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl; and

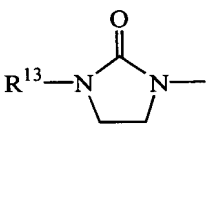
$Het^1$ and $Het^2$ each independently are selected from furan; furan substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl or halo; tetrahydrofuran; a tetrahydrofuran substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl; a dioxolane; a dioxolane substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl, a dioxane; a dioxane substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl; tetrahydropyran; a tetrahydropyran substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl;

pyrrolidinyl; pyrrolidinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, or $C_{1-6}$alkyl; pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, $C_{1-6}$alkyl; pyrimidinyl; pyrimidinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, amino and mono and di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino; pyridazinyl; pyridazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyl or halo; pyrazinyl; pyrazinyl substituted with one ore two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, amino, mono- and di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino and $C_{1-6}$alkyloxycarbonyl;

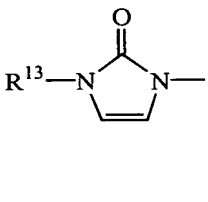
$Het^1$ can also be a radical of formula



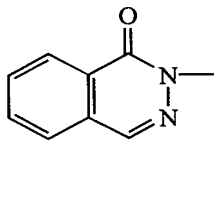
(c-1)



(c-2)

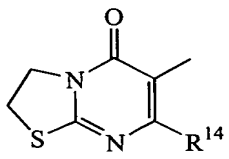


(c-3)

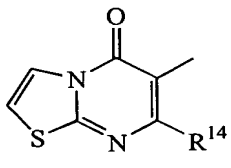


(c-4)

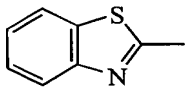
$Het^1$ and $Het^2$ each independently can also be selected from the radicals of formula



(d-1)



(d-2)



(d-3)

$R^{13}$ and $R^{14}$ each independently are hydrogen or $C_{1-4}$alkyl; and wherein the $-OR^4$ radical is situated at any position of the central piperidine moiety other than the 4 position.

Claim 2. **(Previously presented)** A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the -$OR^4$ radical is situated at the 3-position of the central piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.

Claim 3. **(Cancelled)**

Claim 4. **(Currently amended)** A compound as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein L is $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl or $C_{2-6}$alkenyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-1), wherein each Alk is $C_{1-6}$alkanediyl, and $R^6$ is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, $C_{1-6}$alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl or $Het^1$, wherein $Het^1$ is tetrahydrofuran; dioxolane; dioxolane substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl; tetrahydropyran; pyridazinyl substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halo and $C_{1-6}$alkyl; or a radical of formula (c-1), (c-3) or (c-4) wherein $R^{13}$ is $C_{1-4}$alkyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-2), wherein Alk is $C_{1-6}$alkanediyl, X is O, and $R^7$ is $C_{1-6}$alkyl or hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-2), wherein Alk is $C_{1-6}$alkanediyl, $R^7$ is $Het^2$ wherein $Het^2$ is pyrazinyl substituted with $C_{1-6}$alkyl, and X is $NR^8$ wherein $R^8$ is hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-3) wherein Y is a direct bond, and $R^9$ is $C_{1-6}$alkyl, hydroxy or $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy; or L is a radical of formula (b-4) wherein Y is a direct bond, and $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ are $C_{1-6}$alkyl, or $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ combined with the nitrogen atom bearing $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ form pyrrolidinyl.

Claim 5. **(Currently amended)** A compound as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein L is butyl; propyl substituted with methoxy, methylcarbonyl or 2-methyl-1,3-dioxolane; ethyl substituted with 4-methyl-2-pyridazinone or tetrahydropyranyl; or methyl substituted with tetrahydrofuranyl or tetrahydropyranyl.

Claim 6. **(Previously presented)** A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound is

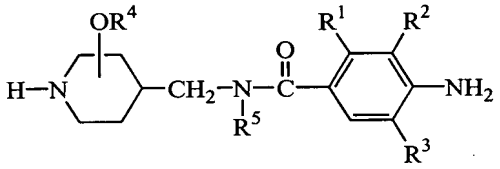
(trans)-(-)-4-amino-5-chloro-2,3-dihydro-*N*-[[3-hydroxy-1-(3-methoxypropyl)-4-piperidinyl]methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-7-benzofurancarboxamide; a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt or an *N*-oxide form thereof.

Claim 7. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 ~~to 6~~.

Claim 8. **(Cancelled)**

Claim 9. **(Cancelled)**

Claim 10. **(Previously presented)** A compound of formula (III)

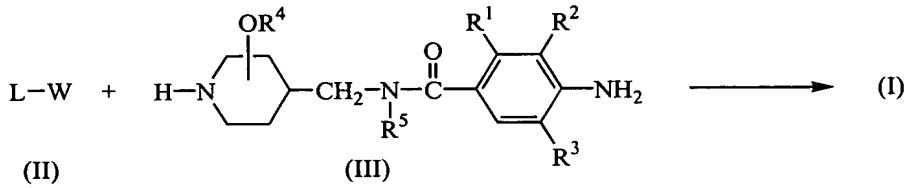



(III);

a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$ are as defined in claim 1 for compounds of formula (I).

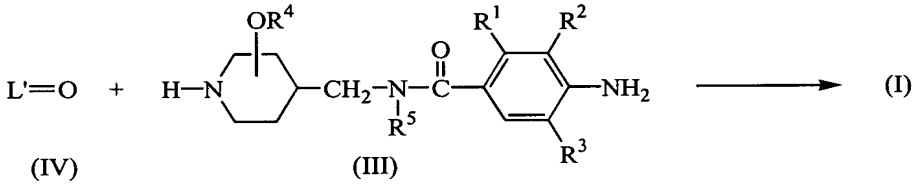
Claim 11. **(Previously presented)** A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein

a) an intermediate of formula (II) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (III) in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base,



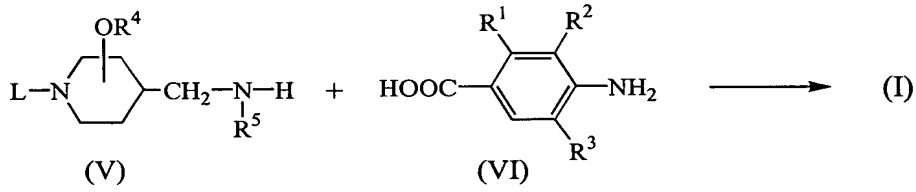
(II) (III) (I)

b) an appropriate ketone or aldehyde intermediate of formula L'=O (IV), said L'=O being a compound of formula L-H, wherein two geminal hydrogen atoms in the $C_{1-12}$alkanediyl moiety are replaced by =O, is reacted with an intermediate of formula (III);



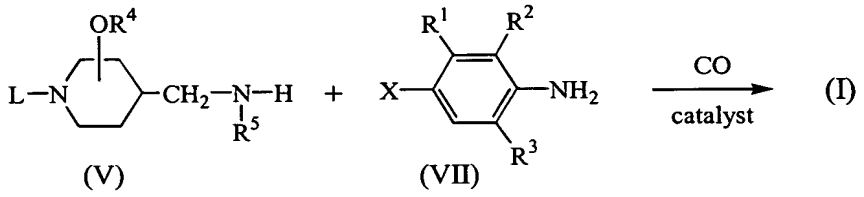
(IV) (III) (I)

c) an intermediate of formula (V) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (VI) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



(V) (VI) (I)

d) an intermediate of formula (VII), wherein X is bromo or iodo, is carbonylated in the presence of an intermediate of formula (V) in a reaction-inert solvent in the presence of a suitable catalyst and a tertiary amine, and at a temperature ranging between room temperature and the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture;

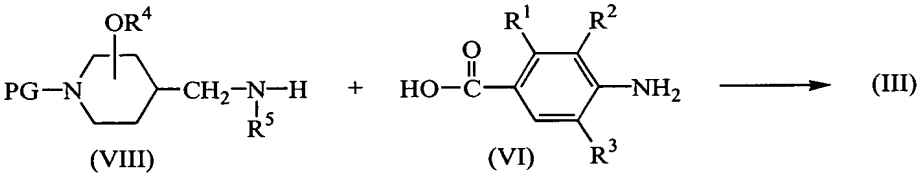



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals L, $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$ are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

e) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

Claim 12. **(Previously presented)** A process for preparing a compound of formula (III) wherein

a) an intermediate of formula (VIII), wherein PG is an appropriate protective group, is reacted with an acid of formula (VI), or an appropriate reactive functional derivative thereof, in a reaction-inert solvent and subsequent deprotection of the protecting group PG yielding compounds of formula (III);




wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals L, $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$ are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

b) or, compounds of formula (III) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (III) is converted into

an acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (III) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

Claim 13. **(New)**: A method of treating conditions involving a decreased gastro-intestinal motility comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.